

Kandres Halbrook
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Aug 30th 2018

Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I chose a small, local telecommunications provider because they offered the superior customer service at a reasonable price compared to big, corporate telecoms. The United States is supposed to be a Capitalist country where free markets and competition determine prices. Telecom mergers reduce competition and increase prices for consumers and only seem to benefit the giant telecom companies. Isn't this the definition of a Trust? Isn't there supposed to be anti-trust laws in this country? As such, I am opposed to the US Telecom Association's petition that would limit UNE use to independent carriers.

I recently received fiber optic service from my local, independent telecom provider. The reasonable price and speed of service has allowed me to work from home, which enables me to reduce my carbon footprint and traffic congestion in an urban area and care for a home-bound disabled relative--reducing strain and financial burden on the medical community. I work longer hours and am more productive in my job because I am able to work from home. Instead of time wasted commuting, I'm working, and instead of time wasted at the "water cooler" and workplace distractions, I'm working in the peace and quiet of my home. Although I take periodic short breaks to tend to my relative, it is a small fraction of the time I typically expended in non-work activities when in the office. All of this would not have been possible without fiber optic service.

Please carefully evaluate this pending petition and the impacts it will have on homes and small businesses and not just on the bottom line for large companies.

Sincerely,

Kandres Halbrook